



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Response to the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities**

As delivered by Ambassador Julie Finley  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
March 9, 2006

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States would like to welcome Mr. Snoy back to the Permanent Council, and thank him and his staff for their report on the first part of the 14th Economic Forum. We believe that the discussions held at this forum could result in ideas for concrete projects furthering the goals of the OSCE, and we look forward to relevant discussion in the Economic and Environmental Subcommittee.

The United States supports the new format of the Economic Forum, now divided into two parts replacing the weeklong conference of previous years. We believe this change was a productive step towards making the best use of time and resources of participating States, and we encourage its continuation.

The topic of the second part of this year's Economic Forum, transportation security, is indeed an important one in a world of increasing economic, political and technological linkages. Secure roads, shipping and air transport are central to promoting economic development, regional security and good governance. In addition, transportation security is critical in the fight against terrorism, narcotics, human trafficking and organized crime. We support the OSCE's decision to tackle this issue.

The United States looks forward to the Second Preparatory Conference for the Economic Forum being held next week in Baku. A representative from the United States Customs and Border Protection Service will attend the forum and make a presentation on behalf of the United States. We look forward to proposals for OSCE cooperation in this area, and we hope that discussions will be fruitful.

We wish you, Mr. Snoy, continued success in your role as the Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities for the OSCE.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.